

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 IGA-01 HEW-06 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SWF-01

/080 W

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R 221635Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8387

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4547

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, PINT, HO

SUBJ: REACTION TO MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE ALLEGING

GOH MISMANAGEMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

1. SUBJECT ARTICLE DATED OCTOBER 14 CHARGED
CONFISCATION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES BY GOH AND ALLEGED
OTHER IMPROPRIETIES ON PART OF RELIEF WORKERS,
INCLUDING MEMBERS OF NICARAGUA RED CROSS.

2. ARTICLE CAUGHT GOH AND OTHER RELIEF DISTRIBUTION
OFFICIALS STILL SMARTING DEFENSIVELY AS RESULT OF
SIMILARLY DAMAGING COMMENTS PUBLISHED BY AN
AMERICAN WEEKLY MAGAZINE. HONDURAN PRESS,
HOWEVER, HAS PRESENTED UNIFIED FRONT IN SUPPORT
OF HONDURAN EFFORTS TO DISTRIBUTE RELIEF SUPPLIES.

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3. LA NOTICIA OF OCTOBER 17TH PUBLISHED ARTICLE

AND PHOTOS SHOWING COPEN OFFICIALS MAKING PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE AND INVESTIGATIONS.

4. TIEMPO OF OCTOBER 17TH CARRIED AN ARTICLE LAMENTING DAMAGES DONE TO THE PRESTIGE OF HONDURAN PEOPLE BY HEARSAY.

5. EL DIA OF OCTOBER 17TH CARRIES EDITORIAL ACCUSING "AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER" OF VENAL, YELLOW JOURNALISM; OF OFFERING ITS COLUMNS FOR THE PRICE OF 30 PIECES OF SILVER. IT WENT ON INDIGNANTLY TO PROCLAIM THAT CERTAIN NORTH AMERICAN MAGAZINES SUFFER FROM AN INCURABLE MENTAL ANEMIA.

6. LA NOTICIA OF OCTOBER 18TH INCLUDES A PHOTO AND AN ARTICLE HEADLINED "ANOTHER REFUTATION OF AMERICAN DOCTOR". IT CITES INTERNATIONAL AND HONDURAN RED CROSS SOURCES AS CHALLENGING THE VERACITY OF COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO A CERTAIN DOCTOR QUOTED IN AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER.

7. LA PRENSA OF OCTOBER 19TH CARRIES A PICTURE STORY ENTITLED "INHABITANTS OF CUYAMEL DENY ACCUSATION OF DR. AUSTIN". PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS A MAN, IDENTIFIED AS ERNESTO GIBBONS, ONE DR. AUSTIN'S INTERPRETERS, ADDRESSING A MEETING OF VOLUNTEERS AND REPORTEDLY PRESENTING TO THIS MEETING REFUTATIONS OF DR. AUSTIN'S COMMENTS.

8. TIEMPO OF OCTOBER 19TH CARRIED A SIMILAR ARTICLE HEADLINED "INTERPRETERS ANGRY AT STATEMENTS OF DR. AUSTIN". THE ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE QUOTES THE INTERPRETERS AS DECLARING THAT DR. AUSTIN PROBABLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WELL ENOUGH SINCE THE SPANISH THE DOCTOR SPOKE "HAD BEEN LEARNED IN THE BAY ISLANDS".

9. LA NOTICIA OF OCTOBER 19TH CARRIES FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "AUSTIN LIES".

10. COMMENT: ACCUSATIONS PRINTED IN SUBJECT ARTICLE PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY WERE BASED UPON UNCLASSIFIED

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SECONDARY SOURCES, COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A WORSE POSSIBLE TIME. IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY WERE PRINTED IN AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER. HOWEVER, SAME NEWSPAPER CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY WILLIAM MONTEALBANO DATED OCTOBER 21ST WHICH WE HOPE WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SMOOTH RUFFLED FEATHERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT BADLY NEEDED FLOW OF SUPPLIES CAN CONTINUE.

SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, CORRUPTION, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI04547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0614
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741025/aaaaavgm.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE ALLEGING GOH MISMANAGEMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES
TAGS: SWEL, PINT, HO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005